The Good Shepherd's Montessori Preschool

Director/Lead Teacher: Stephanie Parker

Teacher's Aide: Helen Vandeveer

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Fb: Stephanie Gall Parker/The Good Shepherd's Montessori Preschool LLC

Ages: 3 - 6 years old

Programs

2-Days/Morning Only: Tuesday, Thursday 8:30 - 11:00am
(Includes Class time, Snack, Circle time, Table time & Large-motor play time)

3-Days/Full Day: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30am - 3:00pm
(Includes am & pm Class time, Circle time, am & pm Snack, Lunch brought from home, Table time, am & pm Large-motor play time, pm Reading & Resting time)

Options for your convenience

EA (Early-Arrival)- 7:30-8:30am \$2.00/day (Available all 5 days)

ASC (After-School Care)- 3:00-5:00pm \$4.00/day (3-day program only)

<u>Program Tuitions:</u> Tuition may be paid on a yearly, bi-yearly, or monthly basis.

2-Days/Morning only 8:30-11:00am: \$14/day + EA \$16/day

3-Days/Full Day 8:30am-3:00pm: \$24/day + EA \$26/day, + ASC \$28/day,

+ both EA & ASC \$30/day

Sibling discount: \$2/day per sibling

Late pick-up fee

\$1/min after 11:00, 3:00 or 5:00

Enrollment Procedure

Complete Enrollment and Medical Forms along with a \$50 registration fee. A position will not be held in the absence of the above. The State of Indiana requires an immunization record signed by parents/legal guardians on file at School.

The Good Shepherd's Montessori Preschool will follow the same schedule as the Benton Community Schools, including bad weather closings and 2-hour delays, but excluding the start & end date. Class will always begin the Tuesday following Labor Day and end the Friday before Memorial weekend.

Children, when encouraged, have a spontaneous interest in learning,

and a spontaneous self-discipline.

Dr. Maria Montessori

Introduction

The Good Shepherd's Montessori Preschool is the fruition of many years of training and working with children in our beautiful Atrium at the Fowler United Methodist Church, in both a Montessori and a Traditional Preschool as well.

Vision Statement: To prepare an environment that will allow children to learn at their own speed, according to their own interests and capacities, and in a non-competitive atmosphere. This environment will inspire them to explore, discover, learn, and grow into the individuals that God created them to be.

Mission Statement: To offer Benton Community a loving and Christ-centered Montessori environment for children, promising to focus on the "whole" child. We feel that each area of the child's growth and development are very important- the emotional, intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual.

Goals: We will strive to help each child develop fully through his/her work, according to the teaching of Dr. Maria Montessori, the founder of the "Montessori Method." The following are areas of development you can expect to see in your child:

- Independence & attachment to reality
- A joy of learning & love of order
- Self-correction/discipline & self-confidence
- Ability to choose through discovery & learn in every area of the classroom
- Enjoyment of peace & guiet and ability to concentrate

The Montessori Philosophy of Education believes that all children carry within themselves the person they will become. In order to develop emotional, intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual potential to the fullest, the child must have freedom: a freedom to be achieved through order and self-discipline. The world of the child is full of sights and sounds that at first appear chaotic. From this chaos, children must gradually create order, learn to distinguish among the impressions that assail their senses, and slowly but surely, gain mastery of themselves and their environment.

Dr. Montessori developed what she called the "prepared environment," which possesses order and allows children to learn at their own speed, according to their own interests & capacities, and in a non-competitive atmosphere. The areas of the classroom include Religious Potential, Art, Practical Life, Sensorial, Math, Language, Science, and Geography. Your children will also explore and enjoy our beautiful Playground, and when weather does not permit outdoor play, we will spend large-motor time in our Fellowship Hall and Toy Room or singing & dancing to action songs. All will inspire them to use their large-motor skills and help them develop the ability, and desire, to follow the "Golden Rule"; to treat others the way they want to be treated. Between the ages of 3 and 6 children have absorbent minds and learn the rules of human behavior most easily. These years can be devoted to civilizing them, through the teaching of good manners and positive habits. The teacher prepares the environment, directs the activity, and offers the child stimulation; but it is the child who learns, who is motivated through work itself to persist in a given task. Patterns of concentration established in early childhood education produce a confident learner. The Montessori method teaches children to observe, to think, and to judge. She introduces children to the joy of learning at an early age and provides a framework in which intellectual and social discipline go hand-in-hand.

Learning Objectives

- Develop and foster an abiding curiosity
- Develop habits of initiative and persistence
- Develop sensory-motor skills to sharpen the ability to discriminate and judge
- Develop social skills
- Acquire the basic skills necessary for a lifetime of learning
- Help develop each child's innate, ultimate potential through high self-expectations

Dr. Maria Montessori believed that no human being is educated by another person. A truly educated individual continues learning long after the years he or she spends in the classroom. They are motivated from within by a natural curiosity and love for knowledge. Dr. Montessori felt, therefore, that the goal of early childhood education should not be to fill the child with facts from pre-selected course of studies, but rather to cultivate the child's own natural desire to learn. We do this by preparing an environment that will inspire them to explore, discover, and learn.

In the Montessori classroom, this objective is approached in two ways:

- By allowing each child to experience the excitement of learning by his/her own choice rather than being forced.
- By helping the child perfect his or her natural tools for learning, so that their abilities will be maximized for future learning situations. The Montessori materials have a dual, long-range purpose in addition to their immediate purpose of giving specific information to the child.

The Montessori Curriculum

The Montessori Curriculum includes materials in Religious Potential to introduce the child to Jesus, their Good Shepherd who loves them, knows them by name, and calls them to follow Him; Art to encourage creativity and free-expression; Practical Life to enhance motor skills through daily functions; Sensorial to allow children to explore their senses and gain pre-math skills; Math to help children understand mathematical functions in concrete form; Language which teaches letter sounds & recognition, vocabulary, writing, and reading; and Cultural (Science & Geography) includes learning about plants, animals, human anatomy, the Earth, outer space, and other cultures. The Montessori Method supports and encourages multi-age classes. Older children work with younger children; giving them leadership skills and encouraging the younger children to choose and achieve more challenging activities. Multi-age classes also promote respect between older and younger children.

Religious Potential- The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program teaches with beautiful, yet simple, Christ-focused materials to aid in spiritual formation of children, always following the Liturgical Church Calendar.

Practical Life- Care for the person, the environment, and common courtesy are taught in this area of a Montessori Environment. All Practical Life works help the child practice eye-hand coordination, fine motor skills, and daily functions. In perfecting these skills, the child develops self-confidence/discipline, concentration, and a sense of order.

Sensorial- Focuses on the exploration and understanding of a child's environment. Sensorial Materials are designed to isolate each sense, encouraging independence and organization.

The senses the children will refine are visual, tactile (touch), auditory (hearing), gustatory (taste), and olfactory (smell). Sensorial works also prepare a child for math, geometry, language, writing and logical thinking.

Mathematics- Arithmetic, Algebra, and Geometry are all combined to enlighten each other. Together they allow a child to physically manipulate the material in order to form a concrete understanding of Math and make it easier to understand more abstract concepts. Language- Every Language lesson is presented in order from left to right, giving the child an early concept of reading and writing. Expanded vocabulary will increase their understanding of the World around them. They will learn letter sounds using the Sandpaper Letters and learn to identify the beginning, middle, and ending letter sounds in simple CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words used in object boxes and a variety of language works. The child will learn to spell and read simple CVC words, then grammar will be introduced. Language starts simple and concrete, and then advances to more abstract thinking. **Cultural-** Biology includes works that allow a child to experiment and observe plants, animals, and humans; discover their needs, how they change and are classified. Geography is concrete, yet very abstract, and gives the children a greater understanding of Outer Space, the World with our seven Continents, and Cultures not seen every day. It lends a visual concept of the Earth, how the water and land are divided. Land and Water Form Trays allow the children to learn about the World in a more concrete and fun way. Puzzles and control maps allow the children to explore, discover and name the Continents, Bodies of Water, Countries, and States.

Parent Information

The Good Shepherd's Montessori Preschool is a member of the United Montessori Association and the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. We are fully dedicated to the development of the young child to his or her fullest potential. Dr. Maria Montessori's method of education has been used successfully with average children as well as gifted, and the emotionally, mentally, and physically challenged. I believe that a Montessori experience at a young age can help give the child a basis for strong character, moral and intellectual development, happiness, and fulfillment; tools with which s/he may live a life with inner peace, harmony, and courage.

Staff: Director/Lead Teacher and Teacher's Aide

Stephanie Parker is 3-6 & 6-9 Religious Potential Lead Teacher's certified through the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and 3-6 Academic Lead Teacher's certified through United Montessori Association. I've had 21 years of experience in the Atrium at Fowler United Methodist Church, 3 ½ years at Follow the Child Montessori Preschool, 2 ½ years at Little Prairie Preschool, 2 ½ years in my home, and the last 5 school years at the Fowler UMC. **Helen Vandeveer** has 18 years of teaching experience (mostly kindergarten) and is my full-time Teacher's Aide assisting with both Programs. We are CPR, Blood Borne Pathogens, and AED certified through Red Cross for the safety of us all.

Tuition and Enrollment Fees

A \$50 non-refundable fee is required. The Enrollment fee assures each prospective student all required forms, Parent Handbook & classroom placement. This fee is used to cover enrollment and insurance expenses. Insurance coverage includes protection for your child at Preschool and on our annual Trip to our beautiful Fowler Town Park.

Tuition may be paid yearly, bi-yearly, or on a monthly August-April basis. For your convenience, tuition is divided into two equal semester, or nine monthly payments. Months having vacation days, therefore, will retain the same tuition (October, November, December

and March). The monthly, yearly and first semester payment will be due August 15th and the second semester due December 15th. Monthly tuition is due on the 15th day of the previous month with a 3-day grace period. (September's tuition is due on August 15th) Payments not received within the grace period will accrue a \$5/day late fee. I'd appreciate your cooperation so that I may meet the school's financial obligations by the first of each month. You may pay by cash, check, or any major credit card using the square. Square users have a 3% fee added to their child's tuition. I will also accept payment via messenger.

Clothing

Play clothes are encouraged and diapers are not allowed. I am willing to risk an accident, or you may send your child in a pull-up if necessary. Comfortable shoes are recommended and your child should be able to put them on him/herself. (I am happy to help tie/buckle) Rain/Snow boots may be worn on rainy/snowy days, but may be changed into shoes fit for the classroom upon arrival. Parents, please provide warm outer clothing (winter boots, coats, hats & gloves) for your child/children to wear on the playground during winter months. We will go outside for 20-30 minutes each morning and afternoon when weather permits. (Temperature must "feel like" 32 degrees or above!) Please provide a labeled bag of extra clothes in case of accidents and change them seasonally to be weather appropriate.

Absences, Bad Weather Closures/Delays

Please notify school if your child will be absent (a text will do). I do not have make-up days or refunds for illnesses or absences. I base my budget on my student's tuition. When BCSC closes due to bad weather, The Good Shepherd's Montessori Preschool will close as well. I will post/email/text as soon as I know about a closing or a delay. There will not be a refund for bad weather closures as we will make them up on flex days, then use our eLearning Snow Day Packets.

I will also follow the BCSC in the event of a 2-hr. delay. There will be no early-arrival available on 2-hr. delay days. For my 3-day children class will begin at 10:30 and my 2-day children will have class 10:00-12:00. If children do not attend on 2 hr. delay days there will be no refund, as Preschool will be in session.

Illnesses

If your child is sick, please inform me so that other parents may be advised. Children who have a fever, earache, vomiting, diarrhea, or pink eye will be sent home. A child who has had any of these symptoms the previous day should not be brought to school. A child should be kept home for 24 hrs. after the symptoms subside. Prescription medication may be given to children accompanied by a doctor's written instructions. I am also happy to administer over-the-counter meds with parental consent & written instructions. Please do not bring a sick child to school. Aside from the possibility that the illness may be transmitted to another child, we do play outside as often as weather permits. Please abide by our 24-hr. policy.

First Days of Preschool

We would like your child/children to feel as comfortable as possible as they begin their early childhood education. We do not require book bags, but your child will have materials to bring home each day, and there is a hook to hang it on.

Should your child be hesitant to leave you, please be confident that almost always a child will become happy within minutes after a parent has left, especially when s/he becomes involved with the interesting activities in the classroom. We are well trained to meet your child's needs with great sensitivity. If your child continues crying for more than 15 minutes after you have left, I will call/text to advise you. Please be sure to provide your child with a good night's sleep. A child who has to be at school by 8:30 am should be in bed by 8:30 pm.

Arrival and Departure

Please walk with your child in to Preschool where we will greet them and you can sign them in. Also, at departure, please sign your child out and walk with them to your vehicle. The sign-in/out sheet for arrival and departure will be on the entrance table. I do require notice with the name and description of an unfamiliar person whom you desire to pick up your child. Please make sure that this person has a picture identification to show me and add them to your child's pick-up list for future reference. **IMPORTANT:** I will not allow any child to leave with a person I do not know and whom I have not been notified of previously!

Inquiries

Communication is encouraged, preferably during daytime hours. Please feel free to call, email, text, or fb at any time and I will reply at my earliest convenience. I may not answer the phone during preschool hours, but will check messages periodically throughout the day and return calls when needed.

Monthly Newsletters

The Newsletter will be emailed, posted, and hard copies on the entrance table upon arrival every first Monday of the month. Newsletters announce monthly reminders, celebrations, Circle Time presentations, and important events.

Sharing Day

At Circle Time every Tuesday & Wednesday the girls are invited to share an item from home with their friends. Boys may share on Thursday & Friday. Please do not send toys with weapons, as we are a weapon-free environment, always encouraging peace and harmony. If your child would like to share a pet, please make prior arrangements so I can make sure there are no allergies to your pet and ensure a positive experience for us all.

Snacks

Morning and afternoon snack will be provided. Snacks include, but are not limited to: fruit (bananas, oranges, apples, melon, berries, and seedless grapes), vegetables (carrots, celery, cucumbers, and bell peppers), apple sauce, crackers, pretzels, granola bars, jello, pudding, string cheese, yogurt, and of course any donations are always appreciated.

Lunch will be brought from home. Microwavable food items are permitted, but thermoses are preferred. I have learned, through my years of experiencing both providing lunch and not, that children eat lunch brought from home much better, and less food is wasted. If a drink is not included in a child's lunch, cold water will be provided for them.

Birthdays

Children's birthdays may be celebrated on the actual birth date or the closest Preschool day to it. You are welcome to send simple birthday treats that are easy for a 3-6-year old to manage. Please involve your birthday child in choosing their birthday treat.

Mini-muffins/cupcakes & small cookies are preferable over large ones. Providing a special treat for a child's birthday is common, but not required. We will celebrate your child's birthday during Group time by singing "The Earth goes around the Sun" song while your child walks around the Sun, with the Globe, as many times as they are old. (Representing how many times the Earth has traveled around the Sun in their lifetime)

If you are planning a home party for your child, please do not hand out invitations at Preschool. (Unless all children are invited!) Likewise, if your child is attending a party at the

end of the day, please do not send gifts to Preschool with them. These situations can be upsetting for those not included; creating hurt feelings and sad children.

Items from Home

Please feel free to send a pillow, blanket and sleeping friend (something silent, soft & cuddly) with your child for afternoon resting time, but leave all other toys & gadgets at home. All resting materials may stay here and be taken home for washing at the end of each week. If your child does not bring resting materials from home, we have plenty of pillows, blankets and stuffed animals for them to choose from. I will wash my resting blankets weekly as well.

Missing Objects

Please check your child's pockets daily for unusual (hard-to replace) items. Sometimes things disappear (puzzle pieces, beads, rocks, alphabet caddy objects, number tiles, etc.) Never feel embarrassed about returning one of our odds and ends. Children are usually very honest. Sometimes they simply desire to take part of their school home with them.

Spring Field Trip

Our annual Spring Field Trip to our beautiful Fowler Park is planned during regular Preschool hours. The date is on our school calendar and details will be in the May Newsletter. All drivers will be parents/guardians who can provide car seats/belts and insurance for their passengers. All parents/guardians are welcome, and encouraged, to accompany us to the Park. Please watch and guide your own child/children, and any others that may be placed under your care, encouraging them to participate in a safe and respectful manner.

Spring Roundup, Open House, Conferences

Spring Roundup is in April and Open House is in August. This allows children and parents/guardians to meet one another, tour the classroom, review the upcoming year, ask questions, and turn in enrollment fee & forms, school supplies & tuition. Individual parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled twice a year. (November & April) A sign-up sheet will be posted on the entrance table. The purpose of the first conference is parent/teacher acquaintance, parent expectations & goals, and to promote dialogue between us for the benefit of your child. The second conference will include a detailed written evaluation of your child. Grades will not be assessed, but rather observations will be shared of your child's activities and progress throughout the year. I'd like parents to attend and become better informed about the Montessori concept of teaching and their child.

Observations

I invite parents/guardians to visit their child's Class in session any time after September (allowing the children a month to settle in without distractions). I will pass out Observation Guidelines at Open House. Observation may be done by appointment and prior arrangement.

Montessori at Home

I will pass out a Montessori at Home Packet at Open House. It has a plethora of ideas to help you incorporate the Montessori method for every area/room of your home.

Halloween will not be celebrated by discussing ghosts, goblins, and witches but, instead, will focus on celebrating All Saints Day, the beauty of Creation and, specifically, the colorful season of Autumn.

Thanksgiving is a time to value our blessings; this is brought to the children's attention by helping them become aware of the needs of other people in the world and by sharing from our own bountiful lives. The children will share with one another the things that they are thankful for. Their artwork will reflect their thankfulness. They will also be encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for our Thanksgiving basket to be given to our local Food Pantry.

Christmas is a time when stories and experiences are presented that embody the true spirit of giving and sharing. Children may donate toys by placing them in our "Toys for Tots to Teens" box. We will celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, for Jesus is the real reason for the season. We will be working with the Prophecies and Infancy Narrative materials during the weeks prior to Christmas (Advent) and continue with the Epiphany Season through January.

Valentine's Day will be celebrated by exchanging Valentine's cards with classmates. A class list will be sent home in the February Newsletter.

1Corinthians 13:13 "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Easter will be celebrated by observing "new life" which is so prevalent in the spring. We will focus on the Kingdom Parables, Biblical Geography, the Good Shepherd, the Found Sheep, Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper and the Empty Tomb. Your child/children will come away from these presentations with a greater understanding of God's love and a deeper relationship with Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

Breaks

The Good Shepherd's Montessori Preschool vacation days will correspond to those of the Benton Community School Corporation.

Preschool Calendar: 2020-2021 school year

August 17 th 2-d	ay Program Open House 6:30-7:30
August 18 th 3-d	ay Program Open House 6:30-7:30
September 8 th	1 st Day of Preschool
October 8 th & 9 th	-Grandparent's Days 8:30-9:15 am
October 16 th -20 th	Fall Break
November 16 th & 17 th	Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 25 th -29 th	Thanksgiving Break
December 10 th &11 th	Donuts with Dad 8:30-9:15 am
December 19th-January 4th	Christmas Break
January 5 th	School Resumes
February 15 th	Presidents' Day
February 26 th	Flex Day

March 20 th -28 th	Spring Break
April 26 th & 27 th	Parent-Teacher Conferences
	2021/2022 Preschool Roundup 6:30-7:30
May 6 th & 7 th	Muffins with Mom 8:30-9:15 am
May 25 th Last Day of School for 2-day children & End of School Year Program	
	or 3-day children & End of School Year Program

Daily Schedule

7:30-8:30 Free Choice for early arrival students

8:30-10:00 Free Academic/Art/Practical Life/Religious Potential Choice & Snack

10:00-10:30 Circle Time (Good morning & Hello song, Prayer, Pledge, Action Song, New signs, Group Presentation, Calendar & Weather, Sharing or Story book, Dismissal)

10:30-11:00 Large Motor Time (outdoors when weather permits)

11:00 Morning pick-up

11:00-11:45 Lunch Time

11:45-12:00 Restroom and Story Time

12:00-1:00 Resting Time

1:00-1:15 Resting Time cleanup & Restroom

1:15-2:30 Table Time, Free Academic/Art/Practical Life/Religious Potential Choice & Snack

2:30-3:00 Large Motor Time (outdoors when weather permits)

3:00 Afternoon pick-up

3:00-5:00 After-School Care

5:00 Final pick-up

Payment Schedule/Amount

For your convenience, tuition is divided into two or nine equal payments. (August and December or August thru April) Months having vacation days, therefore, will retain the same tuition. The yearly and first semester payment is due August 15th and the second semester is due December 15th. Monthly tuition is due on the 15th day of each month with a 3-day grace period. Payments not received within the grace period will accrue a \$5/day late fee.

2-Day/morning-only Program: (8:30-11:00) \$14/day

Monthly: Due the 15th of each month beginning August 15th thru April 15th: \$102.66

Bi-yearly: 1st Semester due August 15th & 2nd Semester due December 15th: \$462.00

Yearly: Due August 15th: \$924.00 (66 days X \$14)

<u>2-Day Program + EA: (Early-Arrival 7:30-11:00) \$16/day</u>

Monthly: Due the 15th of each month beginning August 15th thru April 15th: \$117.33

Bi-yearly: 1st Semester due August 15th & 2nd Semester due December 15th: \$528.00

Yearly: Due August 15th: \$1,056.00 (66 days X \$16)

3-Day/full-day Program: (8:30-3:00) \$24/day)

Monthly: Due the 15th of each month beginning August 15th thru April 15th: \$253.33

Bi-yearly: 1st Semester due August 15th & 2nd Semester due December 15th: \$1,140.00

Yearly: Due August 15th: \$2,280.00 (95 days X \$24)

3 Day Program + EA: (Early-Arrival 7:30-3:00) \$26.00/day

Monthly: Due the 15th of each month beginning August 15th thru April 15th: \$274.44

Bi-yearly: 1st Semester due August 15th & 2nd Semester due December 15th: \$1,235.00

Yearly: Due August 15th: \$2,470.00 (95 days X \$26)

3 Day Program + ASC: (After-School Care 8:30-5:00) \$28.00/day

Monthly: Due the 15th of each month beginning August 15th thru April 15th: \$295.55

Bi-yearly: 1st Semester due August 15th & 2nd Semester due December 15th: \$1,330.00

Yearly: Due August 15th: \$2,660.00 (95 days X \$28)

3 Day Program + EA & ASC: (7:30-5:00) \$30.00/day

Monthly: Due the 15th of each month beginning August 15th thru April 15th: \$316.66

Bi-yearly: 1st Semester due August 15th & 2nd Semester due December 15th: \$1,425.00

Yearly: Due August 15th: \$2,850.00 (95 days X \$30)